

Analysis of Policy Review Comments

Institute for Water Resources

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Analysis of Policy Review Comments

Objectives

Analyze HQ review documentation

- Identify major recurring themes
- Evaluate effectiveness of review process
- Support improvements in guidance, training, models, etc.

Analysis of Policy Review Comments Process

- HQ Review Packages for feasibility studies in WRDA '96, '99 and '00
- IWR reports for 3 business lines
 - Flood damage reduction (R. Fristik)
 - Navigation (R. Fristik)
 - Ecosystem restoration (S. Miner)

Analysis of Policy Review Comments

Flood Damage Reduction

- Johnson Creek, TX
- Antelope Creek, NE
- Monarch-Chesterfield, MO
- Western Sarpy/ Clear Creek, NE
- Turkey Creek, KS
- Beargrass Creek, KY

Analysis of Policy Review Comments

Flood Damage Reduction

- Formulation
 - Non-structural alternatives
 - NED versus Selected Plans
 - Relationship to related actions
- Economics
 - Inclusion of all project costs
 - Calculation of benefits

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Flood Damage Reduction

■ Real Estate

- Inadequate Real Estate Plan
 - Access/ Induced flooding
 - Compensability of relocations
 - LERRD description, credit and responsibilities

■ Environmental

- Description of mitigation
- Compliance with major environmental laws
- EIS format or content

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Flood Damage Reduction

- Miscellaneous
 - Required documentation
 - ITR/legal review
 - Coordination with affected landowners

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Navigation

- Port of Long Beach, CA
- Charleston Harbor, SC
- Jacksonville Harbor, FL
- Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels, MD and VA

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Navigation

- Use of Advanced Maintenance
- Without-Project Condition
- Inclusion of All Economic/ Project Costs
- Real Estate/ Cost-sharing for Disposal
- Required Documentation
- Discrepancies in Reports
- Background Information

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Ecosystem Restoration

- Duwamish/Green River Basin, WA
- Hamilton Army Airfield, CA
- Jackson Hole, Snake River, WY
- Sand Creek Watershed, NE
- Tres Rios, AZ
- Wolf River, TN

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Ecosystem Restoration

- Environmental Compliance
 - Section 404 compliance
- Real Estate
 - Nonstandard estates/ inappropriate easements
- Environmental Benefits
 - Additional description
- Recreation
 - Excessive/ inappropriate recreation features
- Cost-sharing
 - Recreation versus ER cost-sharing
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management
 - Additional description and justification

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Ecosystem Restoration

- Range of Alternatives
- Required Sponsor Documentation
 - Letter of Intent
- ITR
 - Required documentation
- Items of Local Cooperation
 - Incomplete or inappropriate ILC
- Cost Estimates
- Discrepancies in Reports
 - Inconsistent acreages and costs

Analysis of Policy Review Comments

Summary

Recurring Comment Themes

- Real Estate
- Environmental Compliance
- Required Documentation
- Items of Local Cooperation
- Discrepancies
- Background Information

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Summary

Value Added

- Changes to Projects
- Changes to Reports

Responsiveness

- Unspecific comments often elicit unsatisfying responses